

Remarks/Arguments:

The present invention relates to a recording/playback apparatus. Specifically, the apparatus displays a time difference between a recorded signal and a played back signal.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiba (US 6,542,695) in view of Sodeyama (US 2002/0191,951) in view of Yamamoto (US 7,043,135) and further in view of Makiba (US 6,275,450). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Akiba teaches a video signal recording/reproduction apparatus that is able to display the time difference between the video signal during reproduction and the video signal during recording. Sodeyama teaches an image recording apparatus with an on-screen display that displays time in units of hours, minutes and seconds. Yamamoto also teaches an on-screen display that displays time in units of hours, minutes and seconds. Makiba teaches a mechanical watch which also displays the units of hours, minutes and seconds on separate dials at the same time. Furthermore, Harrison teaches a system wherein time is displayed only in units of hours.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...and changing a displayed time format to one of:

a first time format displaying said time value in only the unit of seconds exclusive of displaying said time value in a unit of minutes and a unit of hours, wherein said displayed time format is changed to said first time format in response to said time difference being less than one minute, or

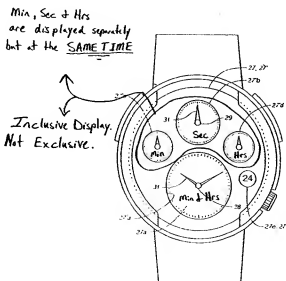
a second time format displaying said time value in the unit of minutes exclusive of displaying said time value in the unit of seconds and the unit of hours, wherein said displayed time format is changed to said second time format in response to said time difference being less than 60 minutes and not less than 60 seconds, or

a third time format displaying said time value in the unit of hours exclusive of displaying said time value in the unit of seconds and the unit of minutes, wherein said displayed time format is changed to said third time format in response to said time difference being not less than 60 minutes.

Claim 1 relates to an on-screen display that displays the time difference between a played back signal and a recorded signal. Specifically, the on-screen display exclusively displays seconds if the time difference is less than one minute, exclusively displays a format of minutes if the time difference is less than 60 minutes but not less than 60 seconds, and exclusively displays a format of hours if the time difference is not less than 60 minutes. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 6, lines 1-22 and furthermore in figure 2. No new matter has been added.

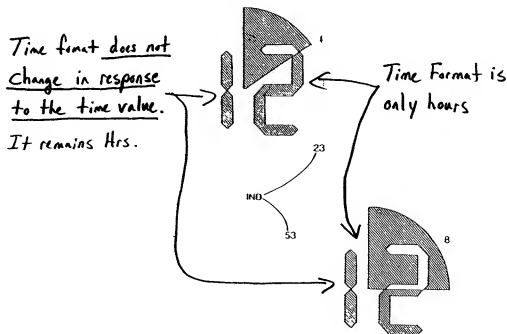
In column 10, lines 16-26, Makiba teaches a display which displays only hours, minutes or seconds ("*displays only the hour or minute, a subdisplay system which displays only seconds, a sub-display system which displays only tenth of seconds, etc.*"). Makiba's system is a mechanical watch which has a sub-display consisting of three separate dials. For example, dial 27C may display minutes, dial 27B may display seconds and dial 27D may display hours. Makiba's sub-display displays only minutes, seconds and hours separately, however, at the same time (inclusive display). This feature is furthermore shown in Makiba's figure 2 below.

Makiba's FIG. 2



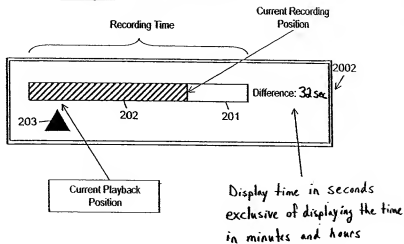
In the abstract, Harrison teaches a display where only the hour number is shown in the center of the display ("only the hour number is shown in the center of the display. Then the first of successive segments of the figures are displayed. As the hour progresses, the figure becomes more nearly filled by increments"). Figures 5A and 5B of Harrison as shown below, show that the time format is displayed in only hours. Furthermore, as time progresses the time format does not change (time format is still displayed in hours).

Harrison FIGs. 5A+5B

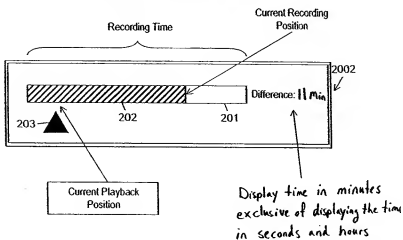


Applicants' teachings are different than the art of record, because the time format changes exclusively to seconds, exclusively to minutes, or exclusively to hours in response to the time difference between the recorded signal and played back signal as recited in claim 1. Specifically, shown below is an example of the applicants' **first time format** wherein seconds are exclusively displayed, **second time format** wherein minutes are exclusively displayed and **third time format** wherein hours are exclusively displayed. Applicants' on-screen display provides a changing time format which is unique to a specific time range of the different signal.

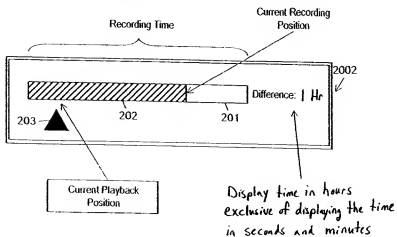
First Time Format



Second Time Format



Third Time Format



It is because applicants' include the feature of "wherein said displayed time format is changed to said first time format in response to said time difference being less than one minute... wherein said displayed time format is changed to said second time format in response to said time difference being less than 60 minutes and not less than 60 seconds... wherein said displayed time format is changed to said third time format in response to said time difference being not less than 60 minutes", that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is the ability to change the displayed time format depending on the difference between the recorded and played back signal, thus allowing a user to easily find out the time difference. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 5 and 11 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1. Thus, claims 5 and 11 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 include all the features of claim 1 from which then depend. Thus, claims 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 6, 9 and 10 include all the features of claim 5 from which they depend. Thus, claims 6, 9 and 10 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

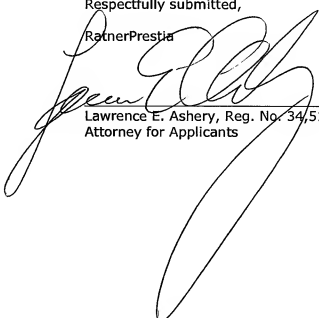
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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in the condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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